



DANTE SCHOOL

Minutes

Governing Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday February 9th 2023

START TIME: 6:31 PM

PLACE: Virtual

PRESENT: Sue Iasenzaniro, Carme D'Iglio, Joe Schembri, Cindy Knafo, Fiorenzo Vetrone, Chantal Dussault, Maria Maiorano-Drudi, Marianna Nudo, Andy Lee, Pina Ippolito, Antonio Zaruso, Patrick Marcovecchio, Josie Nardelli, Mario Pietrangelo (EMSB Commissioner)

REGRETS: Kyle Stanley, Sirmatena Chasiotis (Connection Problems)

PRINCIPAL: Giuseppe Schembri

1. Opening & Welcome

- Start at 6:31 PM
- Mario Pietrangelo, EMSB Commissioner, arrived at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Chantal Dussault motions, Andy Lee seconds for the approval of the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- Sue Iasenzaniro will send minutes of previous meeting by email for approval.

4. Business Arising

- Lunch deficit, status quo.

5. New Business

5.1 Safe School Action Plan

- Safe School Action Plan requires Governing Board approval.
- Will be posted on school website.

- Fiorenzo Vetrone motions, Josie Nardelli seconds.

5.2 Teacher Appreciation

- Teacher and staff appreciation is this week (week of February 6, 2023).
- Parent-Teacher Night is scheduled to be held on March 2nd. Teacher and staff appreciation will be held that week.
- Dinner for teachers and staff will be provided on March 2nd during Parent-Teacher Night.
- Last year GB approved 750 \$ for Teacher and Staff Appreciation dinner.
- GB will obtain quotes for dinner catering and determine the cost for this year.
- Approval will be sent out by email once we have costing.
- Joe Schembri: A letter will be sent to the parents, if they want to bring in some goodies for the teachers and staff (4 day week).

5.3 Next Fundraiser

- Pizza fundraiser from Vincent was successful. 1,322 \$ in profit.
- Ideas for next fundraiser: World's Finest Chocolate, Felix & Norton.
- If we want to do pizza again, must be before April. Limitation is the weather for the dough not to spoil.
- Felix & Norton: 6.50 \$ per bag (cost), 20 cookie ball doughs per bag, 12.00 \$ per bag (sell price).
- Next ped day is Friday, April 28. Cookie dough bag is a small package, not a problem for distribution to students.
- Patrick Marcovecchio: suggests planning all fundraisers in advance.
- End of March break was suggested for another pizza fundraiser from Vincent. Possible dates: End of March. Pick up on Thursday, March 23rd.
- Maria Maiorano-Drudi: Can pizza be picked up after the kids leave? Last pizza fundraiser caused a bit of confusion. Parents should wait until buses leave to pick up pizza.
- Pizza should be picked up at 4:00 PM.
- Chantal Dussault: Suggested that the pizza be picked up at the recess door. However, as noted by Josie Nardelli, that the door has no buzzer.
- Josie Nardelli: A parent is needed at the door to tell the parents to be patient as we must wait for buses to leave.
- Patrick Marcovecchio will confirm with Vincent if they are available and obtain pricing.
- Andy Lee: Mentioned that VMC had a catered lunch for teacher appreciation from Vincent. Will obtain a quote from Vincent for catering of teacher and staff dinner on March 2nd.
- Josie Nardelli motions, Chantal Dussault, seconds to have another Vincent pizza fundraiser.

5.4 Monthly Fundraiser

- School has not had any pizza or TCBY fundraisers this year.
- Cost of TCBY is 1.90 \$, sells for 3.00 \$.
- It was mentioned that Pierre de Coubertin does TCBY every 2 weeks.
- We will start by having TCBY once a month and perhaps moving to every two weeks once weather gets warmer.
- Fundraisers used to be pizza and TCBY but pizza is complicated without many parent volunteers.
- We will start with only TCBY for the moment. Daycare monitors can distribute it to kids.
- Carme D'Iglio or Sue lasenzanero will message Maria Iacono at Pierre de Coubertin to get TCBY contact info.

- TCBY will start on March 17th.
- Maria Maiorano-Drudi motions, Carme D'Iglio seconds (TCBY on March 17 followed by April 21).
- If parents on PPO really want to have pizza fundraisers, Sue will ask for parent volunteers.

5.5 Snow Renewal

- Joe Schembri: Owner of Dante's previous snow removal company retired without warning and without advising the school. In September 2021 when the school was alerted, they scrambled to quickly find a new snow removal company.
- Current snow removal company was suggested by a nearby school.
- Current snow removal contract states that two walkways are to be cleaned, and a third one is optional (at the company's discretion).
- This worked out well last winter as we did not get much snow.
- For this winter, same school that suggested current company, went with another company.
- The school has some suggestions for snow removal companies for winter 2023-2024. Will call to obtain quotes.
- Chantal Dussault: A school is considered commercial. At her condo (also considered commercial), the snow remover must hire a sub-contractor.
- The school's parking lot has been a big issue so far this winter.
- Maria Maiorano-Drudi: People from the homes across the street park in the school parking lot and at times there are no spots for the teachers to park.
- Getting a mechanical arm gate to access the parking lot was suggested. Joe Schembri: The EMSB will not approve the cost of a mechanical arm as no EMSB school has one. In fact, some EMSB schools have no parking lots.
- Andy Lee: Suggested locking the gates manually when the night caretaker leaves for the evening. Joe Schembri: Night caretaker does lock the gates but sometimes there are cars that do not belong and he does not lock them in that case.
- Question from GB: Can we have unauthorized cars towed?
- Antonio Zaruso: There is a chronic problem with parents from the school next door (Lambert-Closse) who walk through the parking lot as teachers are pulling out, linger in the parking lots as their kids play or who park in the parking lot to pick up their kids. Certain staff has had confrontations with said parents.
- Carme D'Iglio: Are there funds or a budget available for a security agent? Joe Schembri answered that for an hour a day money can be found.
- Maria Maiorano-Drudi: Kids from Lambert-Closse use the snow mountain (from parking lot snow removal) to slide down into the parking lot. Safety issue as teachers pulling out in reverse don't see them.
- Cindy Knafo: Asked Joe Schembri if he reached out to the principal of the other school? Sue lasenzaniro asked Joe to follow up with the other principal.
- Josie Nardelli: In the past the caretaker would go out but stopped due to frequent confrontations with parents from Lambert-Closse.
- Maria Maiorano-Drudi: Stated the broken gate, which is open cannot be closed due to the snow. Asked if gate will be fixed when snow melts. Joe Schembri stated that it will be fixed.
- Andy Lee: Asked if we can we reach out to the police representative for the school.
- Chantal Dussault: Related an incident where one time a parent from Lambert-Closse blocked a teacher as they were pulling out of their parking spot and was told to wait two minutes as they picked up their kids.
- Mario Pietrangelo: Stated that if snow pile in the parking lot poses danger to the kids, Joe Schembri can write a letter to the city of Saint-Leonard and they will come to remove it.

5.6 Future Student Activities/Event Ideas

- Sue Iasenzanero: Parents are asking if any other activities are planned?
- Sue Iasenzanero: Christmas breakfast went well. No complaints were heard.
- For Cabane à sucre last year, cost was 18 \$/person. Question was raised if we are doing cabane à sucre again this year?
- So far, school plans on doing hot chocolate on Feb. 27 (during carnival), Beaver Tails on Feb. 28. Details to be finalized.
- A scaled version of cabane à sucre after March break was discussed. Week of March 13. Perhaps maple syrup on snow (tire d'érable) and/or a cabane à sucre goodie bag. Details to be determined.

6. Information and Reports

6.1. Principal

- March 2nd parent-teacher night. Reserved for parents of students whose teacher wishes to meet with them. Parents will receive a link for virtual meeting (4:00-6:00 and 7:00-9:00 PM)
- Will coordinate with teacher and staff appreciation and a meal will be provided.
- The following day is a compensation day for teachers
- Feb. 21: Geordie Theatre Productions will be at Dante. Experts at doing plays. Miss Franca obtained school board funds. Any balance will be covered by school (not from Fund 3). The theme of the production and the grades that will view the show are to be determined. First time they come in 3 years since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Enrollment. 262 kids this year. 222 kids next year. Losing 40 kids. 2 Ukrainian kids for the moment.
- Black History presentation. Dante was visited by Coronation School's Steel Pan Band. Teacher in charge was a former Dante student. K and Pre-K did not attend the show.
- Valentine's Day: Kids are getting chocolate milk that is supplied by the school board
- Kids can wear a red or pink shirt for Valentine's day.
- Renovations in the school. Working on Phase 2. However, Phase 1 was never completed. The EMSB has a new school project manager so hopefully things will move faster.
- Maria Maiorano-Drudi: Asked if painting the building was on the list. Joe Schembri: No.
- A practice lockdown was held. It was internal only, hence no police were actually called.
- Mario Pietrangelo: EMSB Director General meeting with the principals of St. Leonard schools. Enrolment a possible topic.
- Joe Schembri: Mentioned that Lambert-Closse numbers decreasing as well. Demographic in the area is changing. As kids are getting older, they are moving on to high school.
- Mario Pietrangelo: EMBB Campaign on bilingualism hopes to attract parents who send their kids to French school.

6.2 Teachers

- Josie Nardelli: Volunteers are needed for Book Fair; March 1 AM only, March 2 all day.
- Chantal Dussault: Feb. 23rd Field trip to Centre de la Nature. An extra activity since the Grade 6 ski trip was cancelled.
- For Grade 6 students, 3-day High School transition workshop (dates to be determined).

- April 12: Grad picture (K and 6th Grade).
- April 26-27: Grades 3,4,5,6 will have a chemistry show (La magie de la chimie) with Yannick Bergeron (from Les Débrouillards).
- Week of April 23 is also "I love to read" week. MP Patricia Lattanzio was invited to read with the kids.
- Kids had a meeting with Mario Pietrangelo and Filomena Rotiroti about the importance of learning French.
- June 21: Grade 6 grad. A parents grad committee was formed.
- June 20: Special lunch for the Grade 6 kids.
- June 2: Grades 5/6 will go on a field trip to Ottawa.
- K graduation will be week before (week of June 12).
- Carme D'Iglio: Asked about the possibility of having another dress down day as a fundraiser for Grade 6 grad. Joe Schembri: Difficult to incorporate another dress down day. Instead Grade 6 parents will be asked to pay for the lunch on June 20.
- Carme D'Iglio: Asked if any other activities are planned for the cancelled ski trip week. Joe Schembri: Stated that other activities could be planned by teachers based on their availability.

6.3 Daycare

- Sirmatenia Chasiotis not present.
- Ped day on Monday will be in school. No outing planned. Bricks 4 Kidz is scheduled (37 \$ per child).

6.4 PC Delegate

- Last meeting of the EMSB Parents Committee was held on Feb 2.
- Topic discussed was Bill 96 and its impact.
- EMSB Parents Committee will be preparing a letter to be sent to the Québec government.
- The budget building process was discussed and why we should care. It provides feedback from the schools to the EMSB.
- Part 1 of the meeting – EMSB governance.
- Part 2 of the meeting – develop priorities.
- Bullying resolution. It was discussed that teachers do not have proper training to de-escalate bullying situations.

6.5. PPO

- Nothing to add.
- Schedule a meeting within the next couple of weeks.

6.6 Commissioner

- Drug awareness program was developed. Former RCMP officer and teacher at John Abbott came to speak with Sec. 4/5 at Laurier Macdonald High School to give a presentation about drugs and alcohol.
- Also spoke about date rape drug. Not only for girls.
- Spoke about getting caught with drugs and the consequences (e.g. not able to go to the USA).
- Same presentation will also be given at James Lyng High School.
- Will try to do it at all schools.

7. Varia

- Silvana (school secretary) is a free spirit dance qualified instructor and is willing to give a course on free spirit dance to the students. Will be kept for the next session.

Next meetings, March 28, April 25, May 24, 2023.

Motion to adjourn: Andy Lee motioned, seconded by Pina Ippolito.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.